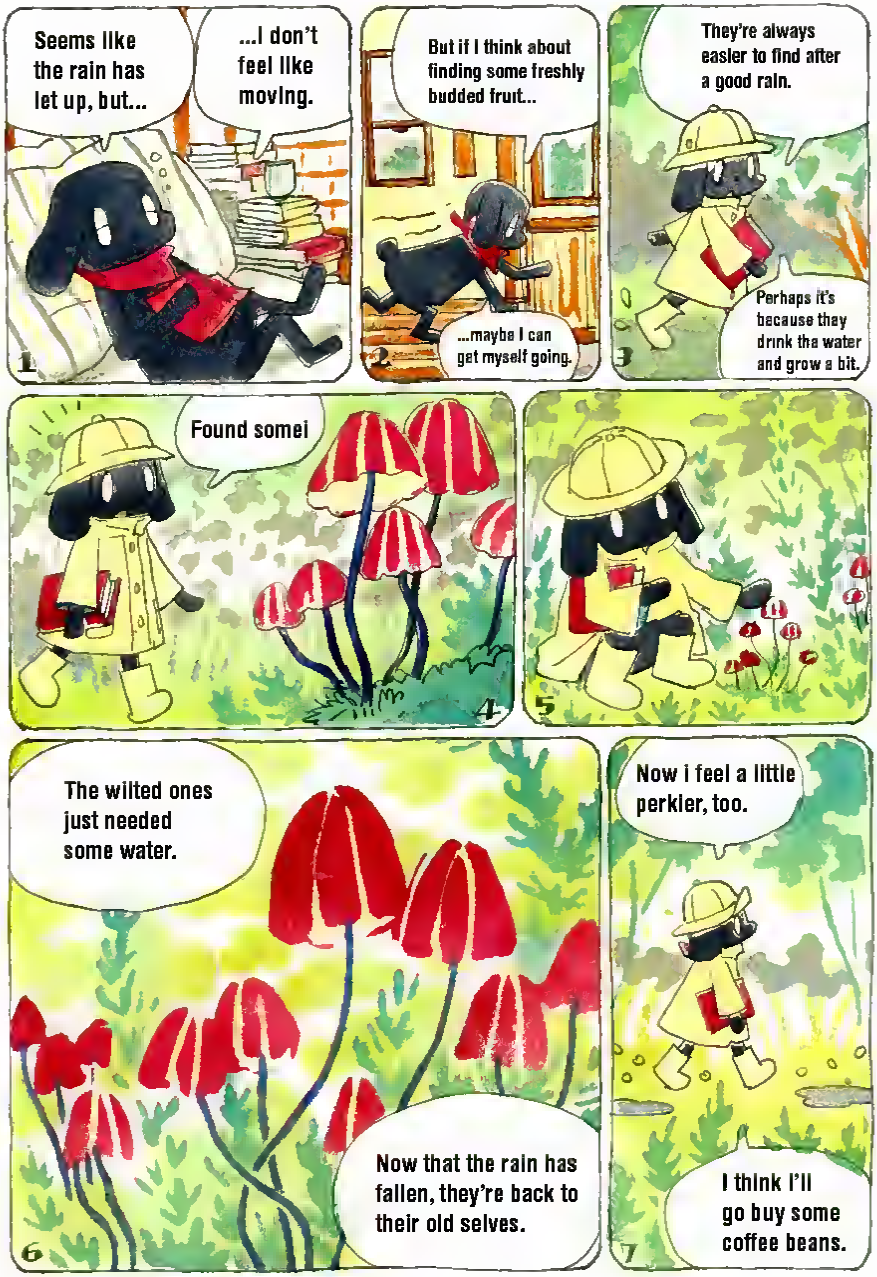
I'll grab some of the first fragrant olives that blossomed this year without anyone noticing.
And dry them under the moon for a week.
1
If you put it in a little silk pouch and place it next to your pillow...
...your dreams will be filled with fragrant olives for a year.
2
That's what I dreamt of last year.
That's why you've been waiting all this time.
3
But the scent of the fresh fragrant olives is so nice...
...that I decided to just enjoy them like this!
4

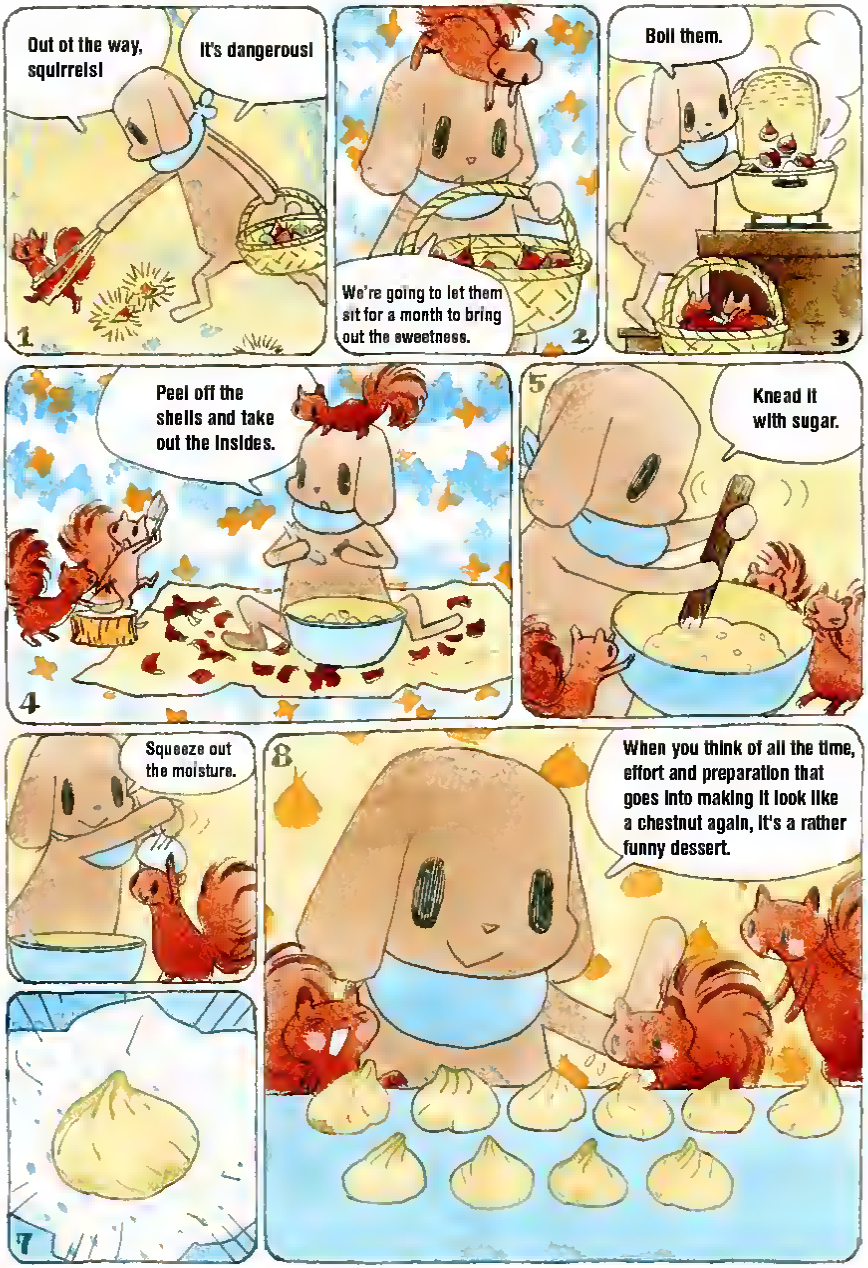
There's always all this stuff in the road after the rain lets up.
1
Dogwood leaves and spindle-tree leaves...
2
Pale green wild grapes and spindle-treefruit that haven't opened yet...
3
if they'd held on a little longer, they'd have their autumn-colors...
...but because of the rain, they fell a little too soon.
4
Poor things...
Poor things...
5
But you guys...
...we still get to see the road all made-up and painted different colors!
6


Seems like the rain has let up, but...
...I don't feel like moving.
1
But if I think about finding some freshly budded fruit...
...maybe I can get myself going.
2
They're always easier to find after a good rain.
Perhaps it's because they drink the water and grow a bit.
3
Found some!
4
5
The wilted ones just needed some water.
Now that the rain has fallen, they're back to their old selves.
6
Now I feel a little perkier, too.
I think I'll go buy some coffee beans.
7

An autumn moth is latched onto the window.
1
I wonder if he wants to come in?
He looks kind of lonely.
2
3
What?! Try taking a look from the inside?
4
Oh!
He looks like he's laughing!
He must be a Somena moth.
5
He might've seemed lonely, but he's actually laughing from the other side.
I wish I had that ability.
6
I think it'd be better if it were the other way around.
You're right!
I thought it was a good idea for a second.

I'm going to collect only the caps of acorns this year!
There are a lot of different types of acorn caps.
They're called "Cupules."
1
Let me try wearing it like a hat.
2
3
Ochibi turned into an acorn!
Acorn! Acorn!
4
According to Ochibi's shape, that's probably a Blume acorn.
5
You can turn into the acorn that matches the cap!
I wonder what Cupule that is?
It looks like I'm a Quercus acorn.
Pankul, join us!
Why is an acorn talking to me?
6

1
You're aure putting in a lot ot effort leto collecting those twiga.
Are you going to use them in your stove?
I'm going to make a pretend camptirel
2
You aren't going to light e real fire?
This camptire is tor little kids.
3
Evee it there's no real tire, it you gather the twigs...
...end place some red leaves on top like this...
4
Ooh! Nothing beats a warm camptire.
Here, let me jole you.
See? Oon't you teel warmer?
Hmm.
I'm starting to see what you were getting at.
6
Huh?
It's a fireless camptire.
Warm up tor a while.
7


Out of the way, squirrels!
It's dangerous!
1
We're going to let them sit for a month to bring out the sweetness.
2
Boil them.
3
Peel off the shells and take out the insides.
4
Knead it with sugar.
5
Squeeze out the moisture.
7
When you think of all the time, effort and preparation that goes into making it look like a chestnut again, it's a rather funny dessert.
8

Wow, it's cold.
1
Ahh...
The nice smell of autumn leaves.
2
When the air is calm in the morning, you can just smell the autumn leaves.
3
When it's around noon, you also smell dust and cars.
And fire pits from further away.
4
And warm stewed vegetables and baked sweet potatoes.
5
All of these combined is what autumn smells like.
6
And then at night...
It's just the smell of autumn leaves again.

Gramps! The fruit on the shrine's tachibana tree did its annual color change!
Oh, is that so?
1
ワタシ
I'll help.
Then it's time to break out the kotatsu.
2
In the old calendar, the day we take out the kotatsu is around the tenth month and it's determined by whether you can see your breath.
It also coincides with when the tachibana changes colors.
3
We light the hibachi heater.
4
And we open the winter hearth in the tea room.
5
And having none of that matter in the end...
Love.
...Is the true meaning of breaking out the kotatsu!
6

There are so many falling leaves!
1
These over here are even lined up like footprints.
2
Let's follow the leaf footprints!
I wonder where they go?
3
ヒュウ!
SWOOSH
4
They're going up towards the winter sky!
5

Ochibi!
...
1
I just... wasn't interested anymore.
That's why I said I didn't need them.
He needn't get so upset about it.
2
I got really into collecting these small spiral shells for a while, thanks to Ochibi.
マキガイ
めずらしい
3
We searched around all day together, and played rock-paper-scissors to see who got to keep them.
Ochibi was sad about losing, so I gave him mine.
4
Wait a second?! Does that mean Ochibi went back to look for more on his own?
5
6
I just want to disappear...
7

Whoa!
The floor's cold!
1
The water's also cold.
3
It's even cold on the stones.
That's what late autumn feels
I wonder why it feels sad when it's cold?
4
That's probably because the cold steals a little of the lives of living things.
5
I wonder where those lives go?
Probably into spring!
6

Signature: Ochibi

Sign: One Bread
Pankui

Since it's Koshogatsu, let's take off the New Year decorations.
Let's take down the New Year's pines, too.
1
Let's bring it to the Hachiman shrine.
Since it's January 15th, we're having our New Year's decorations burned at the Dondo burning!
2
It's also called "Sagicho."
The god of harvest visits during New Year and this ceremony is to guide him back.
I didn't know he was visiting!
3
The decorations are all in there.
It's catching fire!
4
The "New Year" celebrations are all burning away...
Now it really feels like the beginning of a new year.
5

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1
2
3
4
5
6
7

I thought it was getting colder, but there's a little flurry of snow already!
You're right. I guess this is what you'd also call a light snow fall, or "sasameyuki."
1
And when it snows while it's warm, it's called "botayuki" or "tamayuki."
And snow that melts immediately is called "awayuki."
2
I wish it would pile up more.
The snowflakes are much bigger now— this is "haiyuki."
3
It looks bright outside even at night because of the reflection of the snow.
Tomorrow the town will be covered in a blanket of snow and it'll look like a winter wonderland.
4

1
Winter... It's cold... Outside... I don't like it... Snow... don't need it.
Shiroppoi is acting like a shut-in?
Yeah.
2
You're playing with water even though it's cold? You sure have a lot of energy, Ochibi.
3
You'll get to meet a friend tomorrow.
4
Good night, Shiroppoi.
5
I did it!
6
This guy is called "Usu-gori" and he is made by leaving
water out over night
Pretty...
You have a friend during every season!
7

1
Huh? A New Year's greeting card got delivered now?
The stamp's from... Wilshire... December twelfth?
2
It's from Uncle who's been traveling around the world!
3
To Nazeri
Kamakura city
Kanagawa - Japan
The edge is pretty bent...
4
The ink is also smudged and the stamp is almost falling off.
It probably was handed off to many different people and got lost along the way...
5
And took two months to finally arrive in Kamakura!
It went all over the world...
6
I was able to experience all of that traveling from this one post card...
Thanks Uncle!

1
I haven't seen the two fluffy white ones lately.
2
Akame and Shiroppoi are both sensitive to cold weather.
3
Even today, they're both home.
4
It's dangerous to leave the burner on, but it's cold without it.
So I wrapped a bunch of hot water bottles and placed them under the kotatsu.
5
I also left them a small tea set with snacks and sweet dumplings.
6
They're probably going to spend all day in the warm kotatsu having a tea party.
7
I want to join them, too!
Same.
同

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同

Since it's the week of the equinox, let's make sweet rice balls!
1
Sweet rice balls
After you mash the mochi rice, roll them in a circular motion.
Then cover them with red bean paste and you're done!
2
The sweet rice balls made during the equinoctial week are apparently called "Bota Mochi" during spring and "Ohagi" during the fall.
日本の行事
The name "Bota Mochi" comes from "botan," meaning peonies, which bloom in the spring.
And the name "Ohagi" comes from "hagi," which are the bush clovers that bloom during the fall.
4
But they're both the same sweet rice balls, right?!
That's right! They're exactly the same.
5
There's a certain elegance to calling the same thing a different name depending on the season, but it's a bit much...
I wish we could tell our ancestors that!

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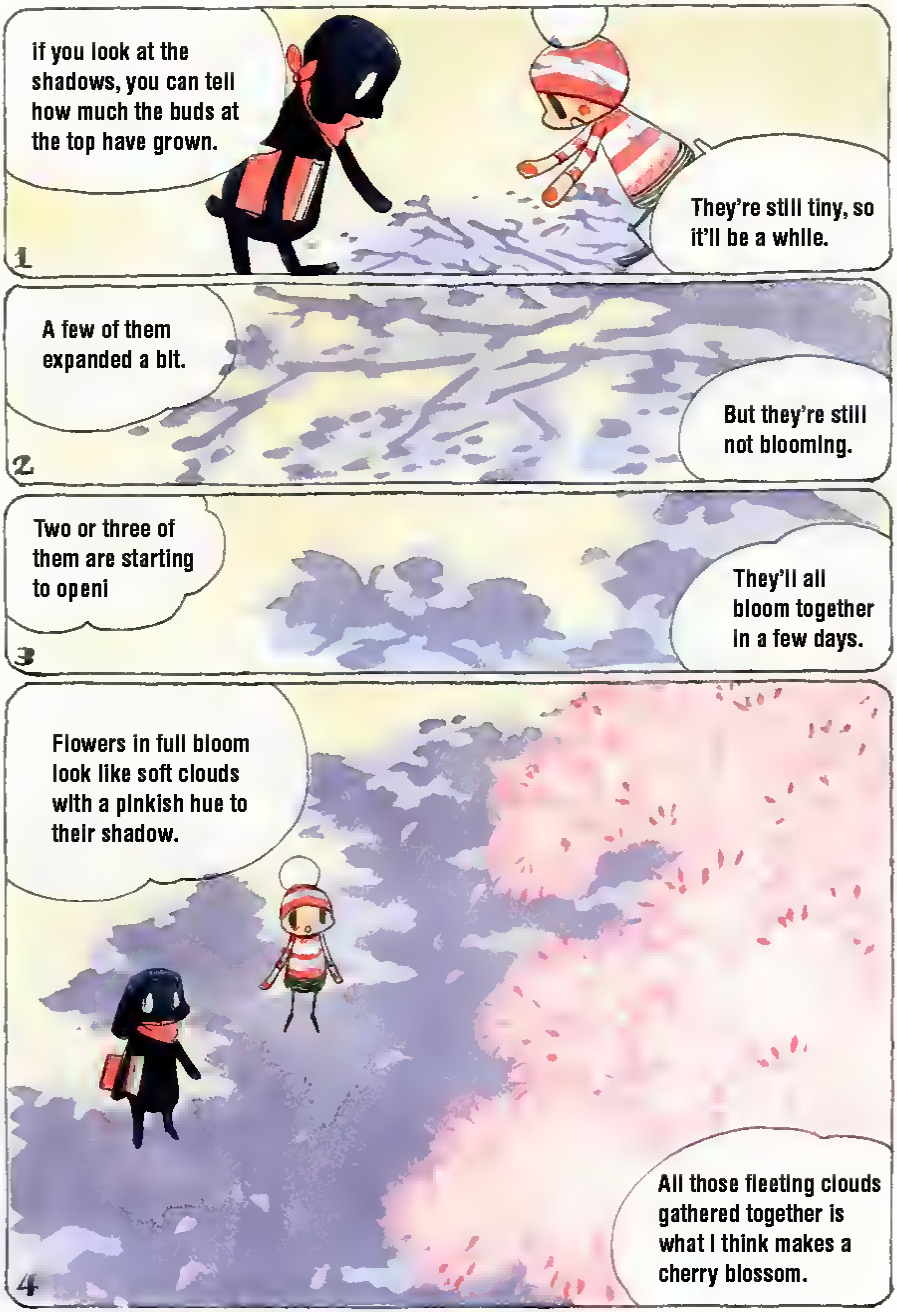
Whenever I see mimosas, I think to myself, "It's almost time for cherry blossoms to bloom."
1
It makes me think of white-beam acacias.
2
Even the plant's very name is beautiful.
It reminds me egg yolk...
...and mimosa salad.
3
And it also reminds me of yellow candies.
Like little sugar stars.
Mimosa cake and mimosa cookies, too!
Now mimosa only reminds me of food.

So, spring starflowers are perennial plants.
Perennial?
1
It means that instead of spreading through seeds, they spread through their root bulbs.
2
That's why they grow right here, year after year.
3
Violets are perennial plants too, so they should be where they were last year.
It's supposed to be here...
Supposed to.
4
Oh?
They've moved over a little to the south.
It must be because the trees are fuller this year.
They went traveling in search of a better environment.
They're pretty mobile, even if they are rooted.
It's a little springtime relocation!


if you look at the shadows, you can tell how much the buds at the top have grown.
They're still tiny, so it'll be a while.
1
A few of them expanded a bit.
But they're still not blooming.
2
Two or three of them are starting to openi
They'll all bloom together in a few days.
3
Flowers in full bloom look like soft clouds with a pinkish hue to their shadow.
All those fleeting clouds gathered together is what I think makes a cherry blossom.
4

I spent all winter thinking about it, and I decided once it's spring...
...I'm going to make a friend!
1
There's a saying that everyone loathes snakes and scorpions.
I guess it's just a snake's fate to be hated.
2
But while I was sleeping in the earth, something occurred to me.
I bet if I made friends with a scorpion, we could both understand each other's struggles!
3
Hello, do you happen to know any scorpions?
4
Let's see where scorpions are in Japan... They are in Yaeyama Islands and Ogasawara Islands, so there probably aren't any around here.
That's pretty far away.
動物
日本の
5
How tragic!
I can't even be with my one true friend!
You go through this every year—it's getting tiresome!
I'm sure you'll make many friends if you just look for them...
6

There are flowers that look like little hats on the ground.
I think these are Carolina Jessamine flowers.
1
They're all leading that way...
2
Whoa!
A huge thicket!
3
There are quite a lot of birds living in here!
What's that? You want me to put this hat on?
4
Whoa, whoa! I turned into a bird!
Welcome, Ochibi!
Everyone's waiting.
5
Hey there, Ochibi. So you figured out that the flowers were invitations.
This is Mametsubu's second flower viewing!
Can you tell who's who?
6

1
Chop!
Chop!
2
Stop cutting so much!
3
They finally grew bigger, it's just cruel.
Poor thing...
That's true if you think of the leaves as individuals.
But what if you consider the entire shrub as a single life?
4
You can improve the airflow by cutting off the withered branches
that'll help the small buds grow.
5
See? The shrub's happy because he looks better now.
It's the same as getting a haircut!
I've gone and said too much again.
Stop it.
7

1
Oh, my scab came off!
2
It took a while it was such a big cut...
But it's finally healed!
You fell pretty hard that day.
3
It stung every night while taking a bath and bending it was painful, too.
I couldn't even imagine when it would get better.
4
I'm glad you're healed now!
Thanks!
5
Remember having that conversation?
6
You probably can't even imagine it right now...
But this wound will eventually heal, too.

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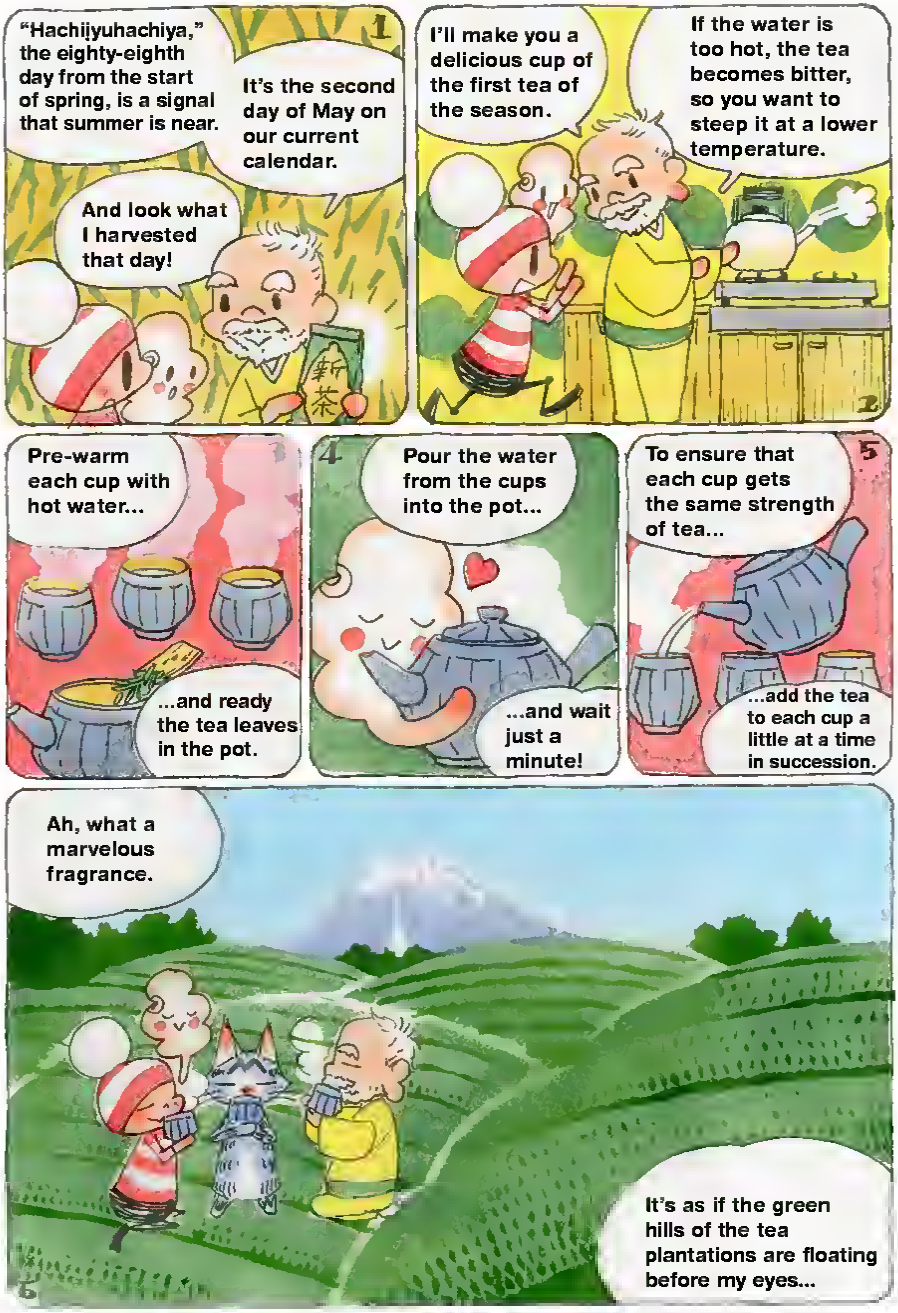
But this wound will eventually heal, too.

1
...
2
=
...!
3
Raisin bread!
4
Hey Pankui! Are you here to enjoy the flowers?
5
He said he's going to stay to make sure other animals don't eat them before they grow into grapes.
How patient of him...
6
Now the problem is deciding when to tell him that wisteria isn't where grapes come from.
7

1
These abelia bushes...
2
...are hollow in the middle.
It's like a secret hideout.
3
A secret hideout?
A secret hideout!
4
What kind of a hideout is this, and what do we do here?
5
...
6
A secret hideout...
Is the best place for eating snacks.


"Hachiiyuhachiya," the eighty-eighth day from the start of spring, is a signal that summer is near.
It's the second day of May on our current calendar.
And look what I harvested that day!
1
I'll make you a delicious cup of the first tea of the season.
If the water is too hot, the tea becomes bitter, so you want to steep it at a lower temperature.
2
Pre-warm each cup with hot water...
...and ready the tea leaves in the pot.
3
4
Pour the water from the cups into the pot...
...and wait just a minute!
To ensure that each cup gets the same strength of tea...
...add the tea to each cup a little at a time in succession.
5
Ah, what a marvelous fragrance.
It's as if the green hills of the tea plantations are floating before my eyes...
6

1
The camellia suddenly wilted!
2
This is probably due to cutworms.
Moth and chafer larvae eat the roots of the plants.
3
They don't come out during the day, so let's exterminate them at night!
Oh! I found one! It looks like a hornworm.
4
This is... a rhinoceros beetle larva!
We found something incredible! We ought to raise it carefully.
Let's bring it home.
5
What's wrong, Ochibi?
I was thinking... Even though they're both insects, they wind up facing such different fates.
I just felt a little sympathetic towards the cutworms.
7

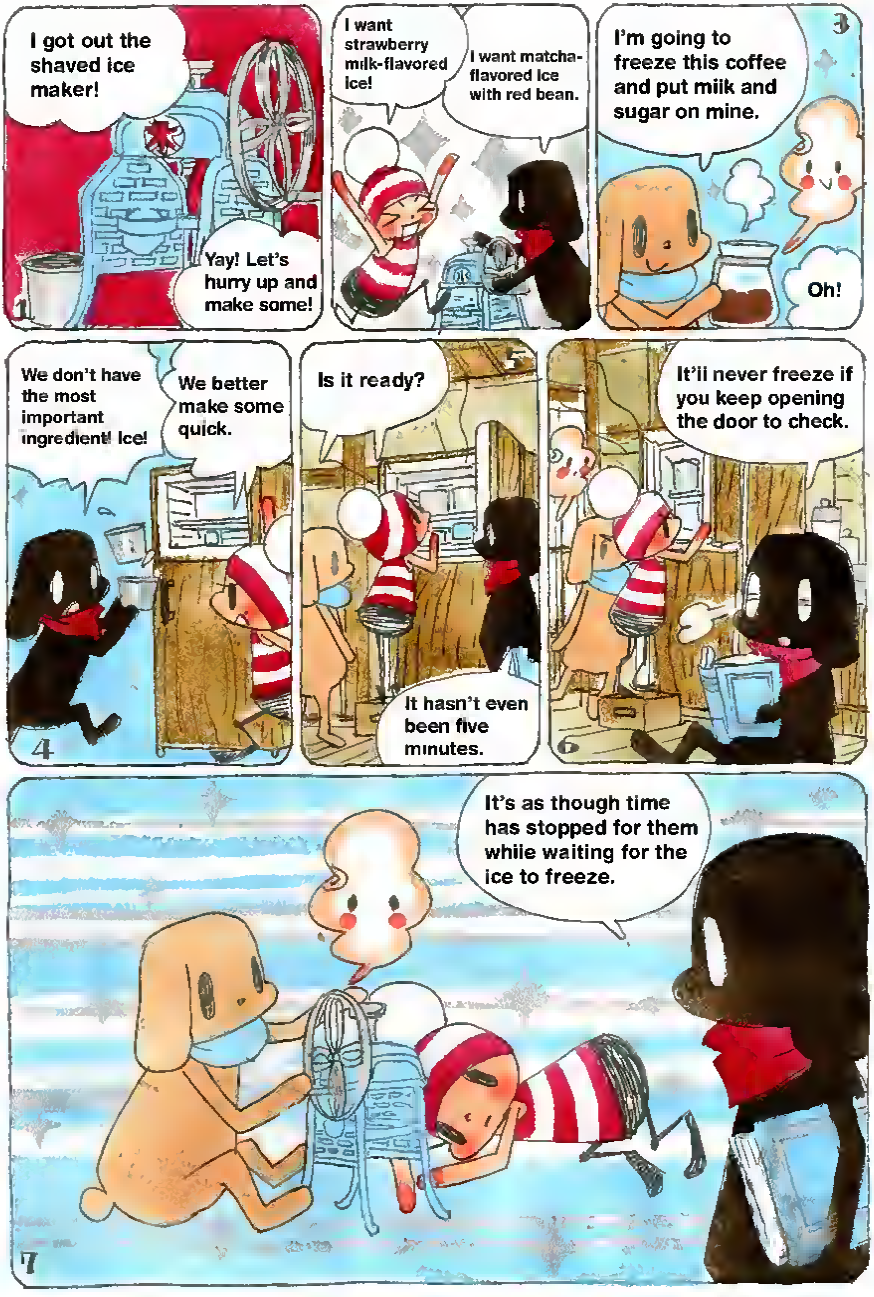
Knead, knead.
1
It's the season to make sea-creature-themed bread like crab buns and starfish bread
2
3
The sea urchin bun is ready!
4
I'm going to go visit the ocean.
Here you go, ocean!
Here's some bread
5
I personally...
...love the way you celebrate the start of beach season!
6

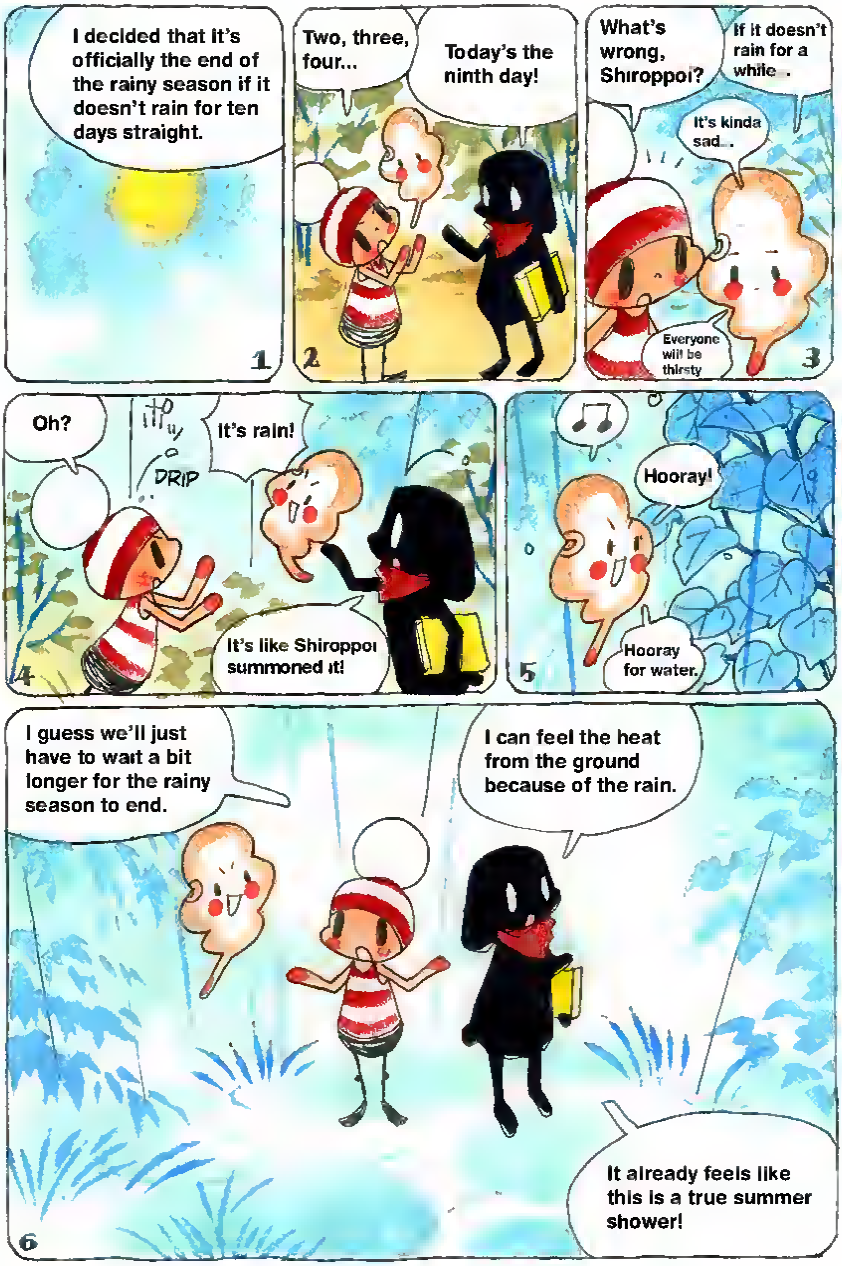
1
What color is the sky when it's raining?
2
Maybe if we look at it long enough, we'll figure it out.
White...?
I wonder... It's a little gray and a little blue.
3
Oh!
4
Akame's eyes are the same color as the sky!
I'm going to look it up in a dictionary the way Nazeni would.
I believe... this color is *kamenozoki*, a very pale aqua.
日本の色辞典
日本
"Kamen-ozoki"?
It's the color of a glass jug of water that is reflecting the sky.
Akame's eyes are so clear that you can see any reflection in them!
6

1
Nazeni! You're talking a walk so early in the day?
Hey, good morning.
On days when I get up early, I go to the Tenmangu shrine to pray to the spirit of Sugarawa no Michizane.
2
I've known you for quite some time, but i never knew you did that.
Oh, take a look!
3
A sparrow is taking a bath in the dust!
Wow, how cute!
4
Sparrows love to keep clean by bathing in both sand and water.
I see!
5
Sometimes they even dig up ant hills and clean themselves in those, too.
Ants produce formic acid that helps get rid of ticks.
I thought I knew everything about you and about sparrows... But now it feels like I knew nothing at all.
We all can only know only a portion of things.
That goes for everything.
7

1
Why aren't I allowed to kill spiders in the morning?
2
3
Because the morning spider's web is beautiful.
4
What about night spiders?
And it's said that spiders are personifications of the Buddha.
Well, they're personifications of thieves, so it wouldn't be a sin to kill them.
But if you saw the moon's light glimmer through their webs...
You wouldn't want to do such a thing.

The Chinese trumpet creepers are in bloom again this year.
1
We saw them like this last year and the year before that.
That's right.
2
It rained just like it did last year, and the sun shone just like it did last year.
3
That routine peacefully continues...
...and has persisted that way for a long, long time.
4
Blooming flowers truly are a wonderful thing.
5


I got out the shaved ice maker!
Yay! Let's hurry up and make some!
1
I want strawberry milk-flavored ice!
I want matcha-flavored ice with red bean.
I'm going to freeze this coffee and put milk and sugar on mine.
3
Oh!
We don't have the most important ingredient! Ice!
We better make some quick.
4
Is it ready?
It hasn't even been five minutes.
5
It'll never freeze if you keep opening the door to check.
6
It's as though time has stopped for them while waiting for the ice to freeze.
7


I decided that it's officially the end of the rainy season if it doesn't rain for ten days straight.
1
Two, three, four...
Today's the ninth day!
2
What's wrong, Shiroppoi?
If it doesn't rain for a while...
It's kinda sad...
Everyone will be thirsty
3
Oh?
DRIP
It's rain!
It's like Shiroppoi summoned it!
4
Hooray!
Hooray for water.
5
I guess we'll just have to wait a bit longer for the rainy season to end.
I can feel the heat from the ground because of the rain.
It already feels like this is a true summer shower!
6